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DECORATIVE NOTES.

A REMARKABLE TIMEPIECE.—A timepiece presented by Philippe Egalité to George IV., when he was Prince of Wales, was recently sold at a sale in Paris. It is in the shape of a negress's head, with jewels in the wool and a jeweled clasp for the handkerchief. A pair of openwork earrings hang from the ears; on pulling one the hour is shown in the right eye and the minute in the left; on pulling the other a set of bells chime the hours.

MODERN HOTEL FURNITURE.—An inspection of any one of a dozen new hotels, says a daily paper, displays the fact that conventional sets for bedroom or parlor are no longer the thing. They are all odd pieces upholstered and finished differently, not inharmoniously, but so that there is generally a contrast. Most of the modern hostleries (speaking only of first-class ones) have, for the most part, adopted brass bedsteads, which are so light and airy, as well as decorative, serving to brighten up the darker tones of the surrounding furniture. All the chairs are odd, no two being the same, and none of them the light, flimsy sort, all gilt, and light upholsterings. They are all built on comfortable, easy lines, rather plain, but substantially made. Hotel men have decided on this character of furnishing for two reasons: first, because they want furniture that will last, and, secondly, they know that the more home-like an apartment looks, and the farther away from set appearance they get, the more it will appeal to the majority of people.

THE changefulness of fashion during the past ten or twenty years, though it has been unsettling in an artistic sense, has none the less been beneficial in discovering the possibilities of accommodation and construction of bedroom furniture. It has created a new demand for novelty which has had to be satisfied throughout, without in any way detracting from the wonted conveniences of the several articles composing the suite. The axiom that a thing which is truly beautiful is beautiful for all time, may be very well in a metaphysical sense, but it is not always a welcome truism in the art world.

WITH the tendency of all our fashions back to early modes, are we threatened with a rival of the bundles of shavings, regarded formerly as a genteel form of summer "ornament for our fire-places"? The suggestion is an alarming one, but it is justified by the fact that singular structures, composed chiefly of fine strips of wood-shavings tortured into a semblance of flowers and leaves, and dyed to horrid crude shades of color, are being largely exposed to view in the shop windows, and are even to be seen in otherwise tasteful drawing-rooms. It may be admitted that it is extremely difficult to find a pretty form of substitute for the glowing coals of the winter hearth. Plush curtains are not pleasant on various accounts, and most things are unsatisfactory for some reason or other. Flowers are indisputably the best; but, then, they give constant trouble from the attention they require. Altogether, it is an annual problem to ladies to know what to do with their grates; but the last attempt to solve it threatens to take us back to that last abomination, the shavings.



IT IS agreeable to notice at the present time how decidedly English is the prevailing taste in all matters of upholstery. The Louis Quinze and the Empire styles are vigorously employed in almost every kind of cabinet work just now, and even the patterns of drawing-room suites are nearly always designed in these fashionable modes. For all this, however, the taste in stuff-over goods is almost invariably opposed to the French modes, and seems to be gradually becoming more and more set in the direction of simple and quaint forms.

